

*Program of Public Health Informatics*

**Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report**

**CDC MMWR Week 44, October 30 to November 5, 2016**

## Summary

The Houston Health Department (HHD) conducts seasonal influenza surveillance from October (week 40) 2016 to May (week 22) 2017. Flu activity typically peaks between December and February. Flu vaccine is recommended for individuals that are 6 months and older.

During October 30 to November 5, 2016, Influenza Like Illness activity increased by 0.3 percent and clinical laboratory positives increased by a count of 21 from the previous week.

Influenza activity in Houston is low and increased. Flu activity typically peaks between December and February.

## Influenza Like Illness (ILI)

Influenza Like Illness (ILI) is monitored using several data sources. A description of each surveillance activity can be found in the Components section. Each of the following plots corresponds to a different surveillance activity. ILI activity is reported in percent per week.

Table. Summary of ILI activity per week and surveillance activity

Date range		Influenza Like Illness		
Date	MMWRYrWk	Hospital Emergency Center (% per week)	Flu Near You (% per week)	Athena (% per week)
October 9 to 15, 2016	201641	1.0	0	0.1
October 16 to 22, 2016	201642	1.1	0	0.1
October 23 to 29, 2016	201643	0.9	0	0.2
October 30 to November 5, 2016	201644	1.2	0	0.2



**Hospital emergency centers (EC)** visits for ILI represent individuals whose symptoms were severe enough to warrant a visit to an EC. Hospitals transmit data to the syndromic surveillance system at the Houston Health Department on a real-time basis.

In week 44, ILI accounted for 1.2% of EC visits. ILI percent higher than 6.0% was detected in two ZIP codes: 77396 and 77003. Females accounted for 53% of ILI EC visits. The 00 to 04 year old age group recorded the most (51%) ILI EC visits.

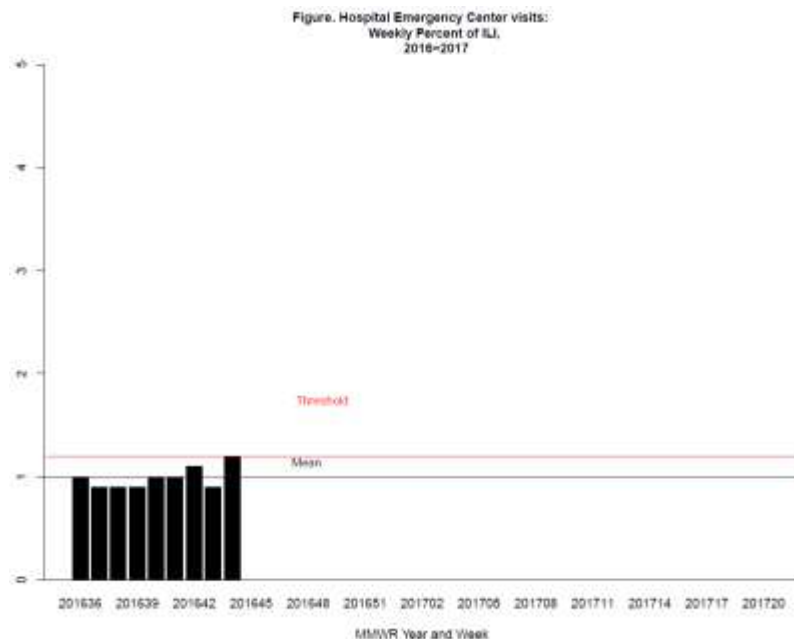
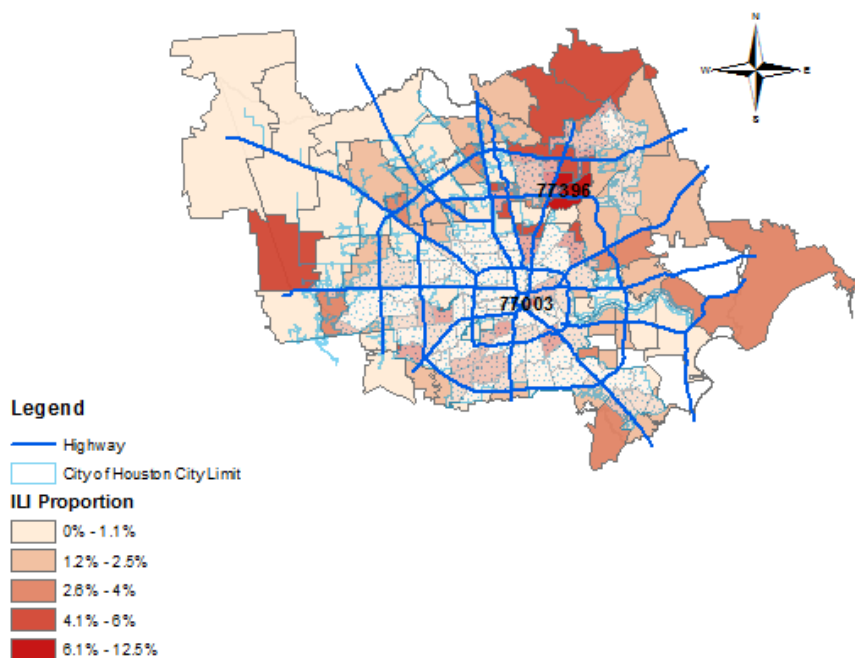


Figure. Geographic distribution of ILI

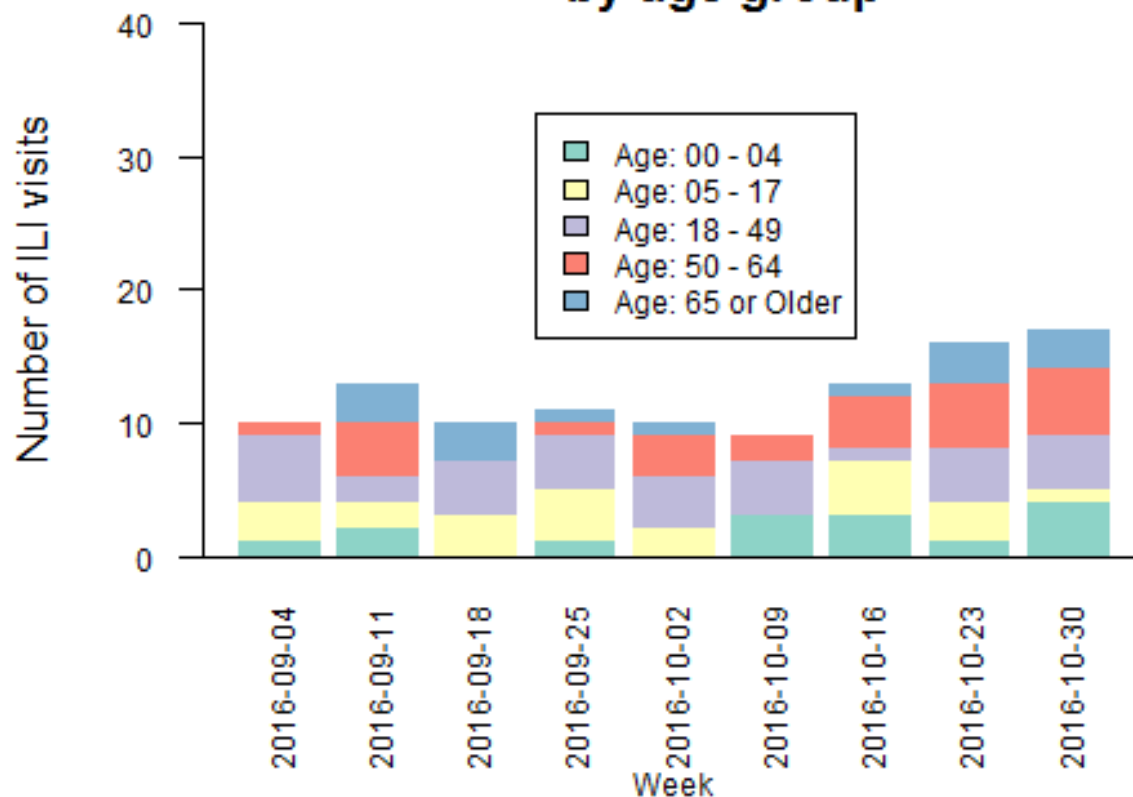




**Outpatient** visits for ILI represent individuals whose symptoms require a visit to a healthcare provider. ILI activity in outpatient settings is obtained on a weekly basis from ILINet and Athena. The last page describes how healthcare providers can participate in ILInet.

In week 44, ILI accounted for 0.2% of outpatient visits in the Athena network and the age group with the highest count of ILI outpatient visits was the 50 to 64 year old group.

**Figure. Athena:  
Total number of weekly ILI visits  
by age group**

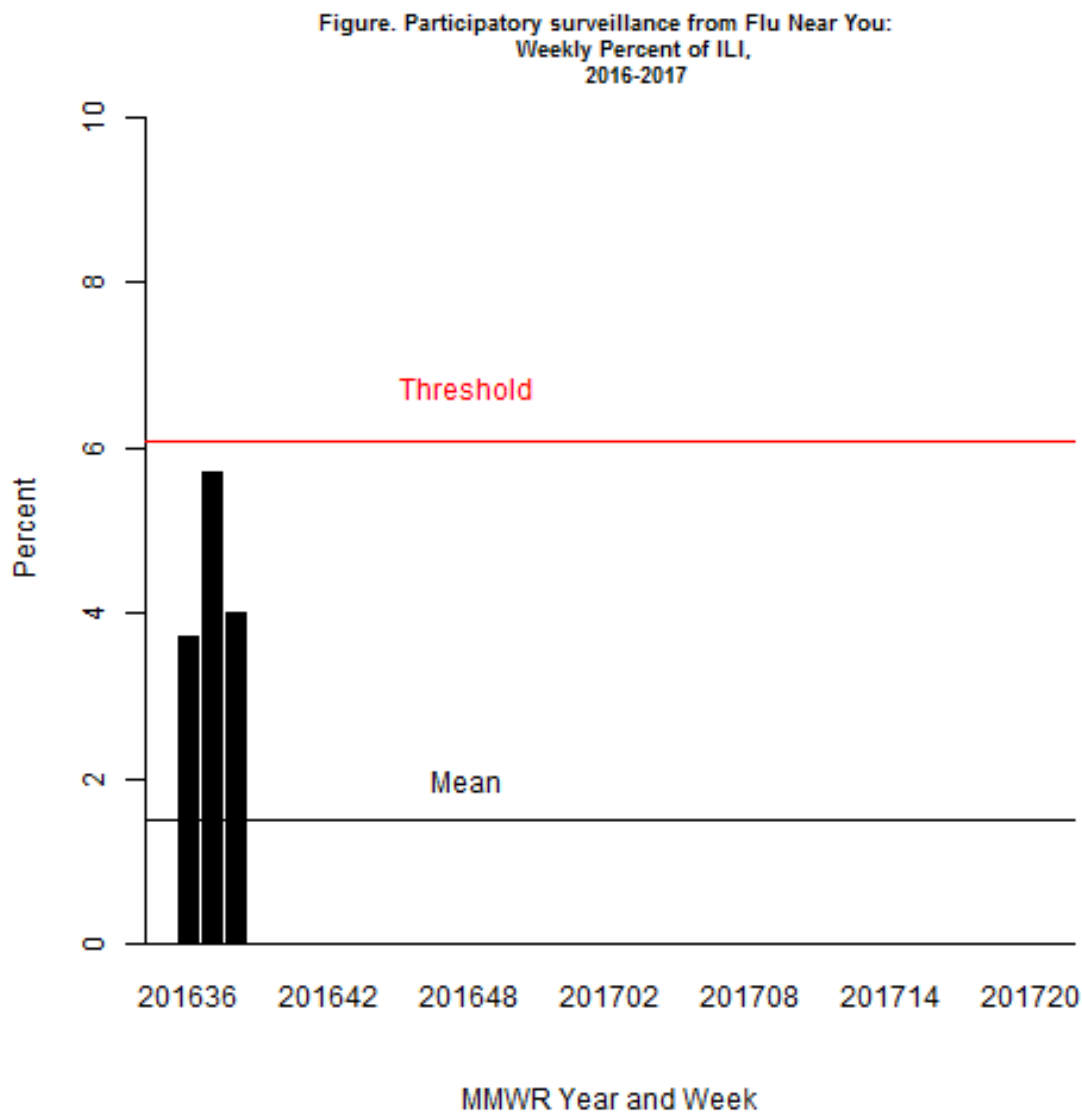


ILInet participation in Houston is low at this time. Please see the last page for information on how healthcare providers can participate.



**Crowd sourced** reports for ILI represent individuals who have symptoms for ILI ranging in severity and may or may not have accessed the healthcare system. This form of public health surveillance complements other surveillance for ILI activity in that it may provide information for earlier detection of increased ILI activity. Flu Near You platform provides data collected via participatory surveillance. See the last page to learn how to participate.

In week 44, ILI was reported by 0% of Flu Near You participants.



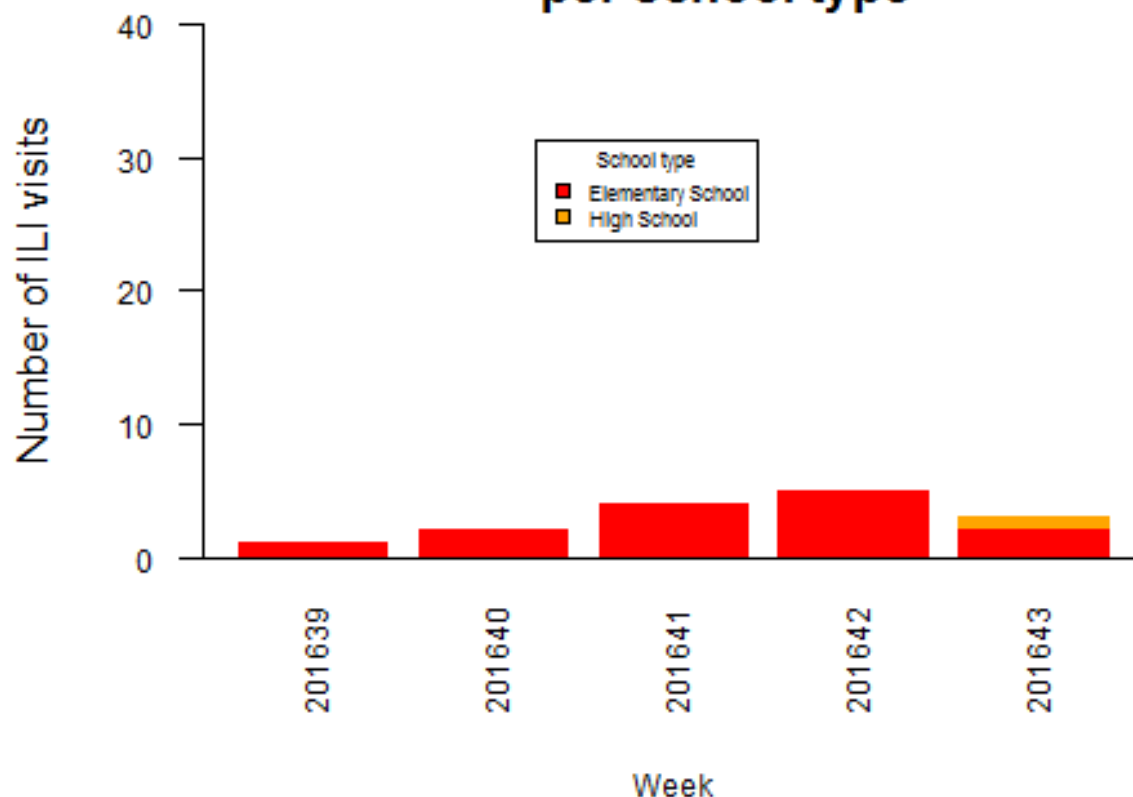


## Flu activity in School settings

The Houston Independent School District collects data on student ILI and influenza cases from 286 schools. School will be counted more than once if more than one case from the same school is reported during the week.

Date range		Influenza Like Illness
Date	MMWRYrWk	HISD (counts per week)
September 4 to 10, 2016	201636	2
September 11 to 17, 2016	201637	1
September 18 to 24, 2016	201638	0
September 25 to October 1, 2016	201639	1
October 2 to 8, 2016	201640	2
October 9 to 15, 2016	201641	4
October 16 to 22, 2016	201642	5
October 23 to 29, 2016	201643	3

**Figure. HISD:  
Total number of weekly ILI visits  
per school type**





## Influenza type

### Test performed at the Houston Health Department

No tests performed this season.



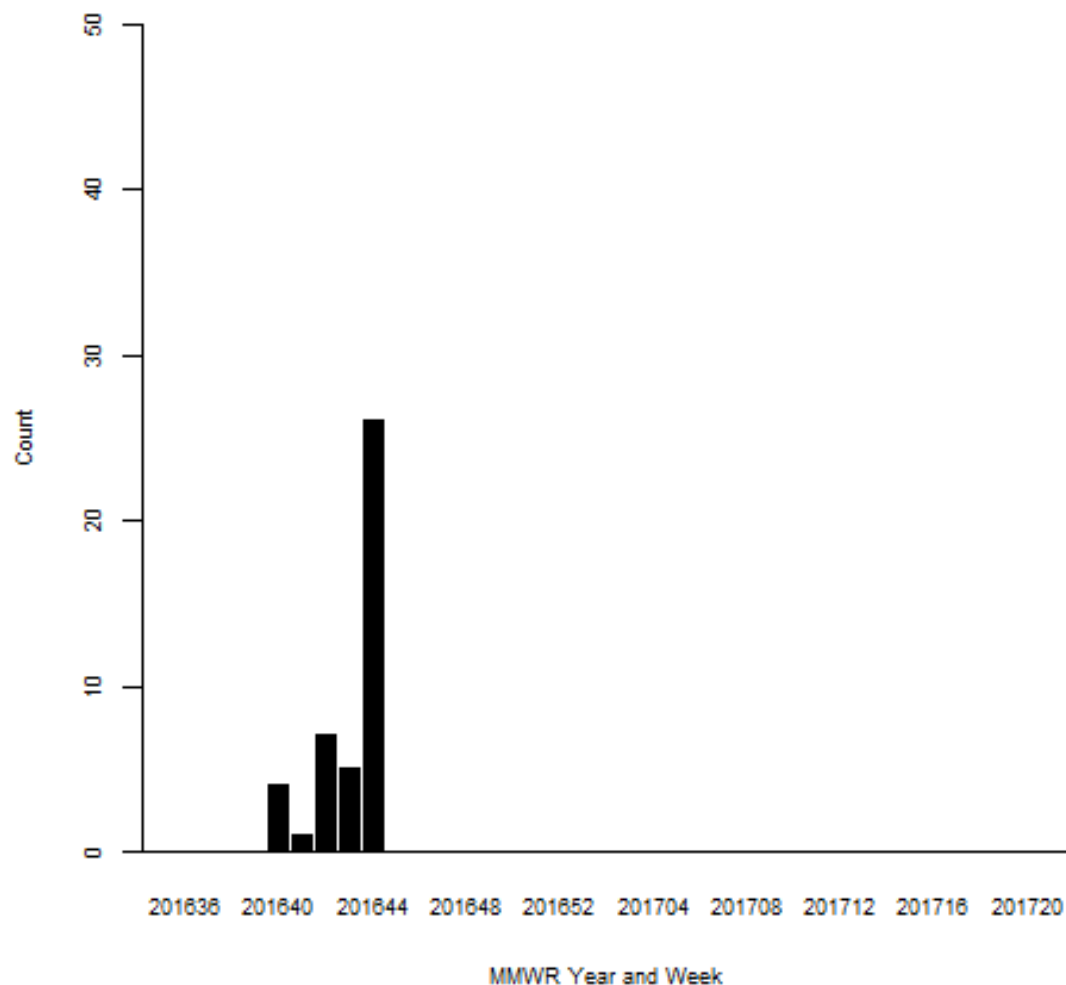
## Tests performed by clinical labs

Date range		Influenza positives from clinical labs	
Date	MMWRYrWk	Electronic Lab Reports (Counts per week)	Non-Electronic Lab Reports (Counts per week)
October 9 to 15, 2016	201641	1	1
October 16 to 22, 2016	201642	0	7
October 23 to 29, 2016	201643	0	5
October 30 to November 5, 2016	201644	0	26

**Non-electronic lab reports from clinical laboratories** are reported to HHD.

From October 30 to November 5, 2016, Influenza A accounted for 54% of the flu positives.

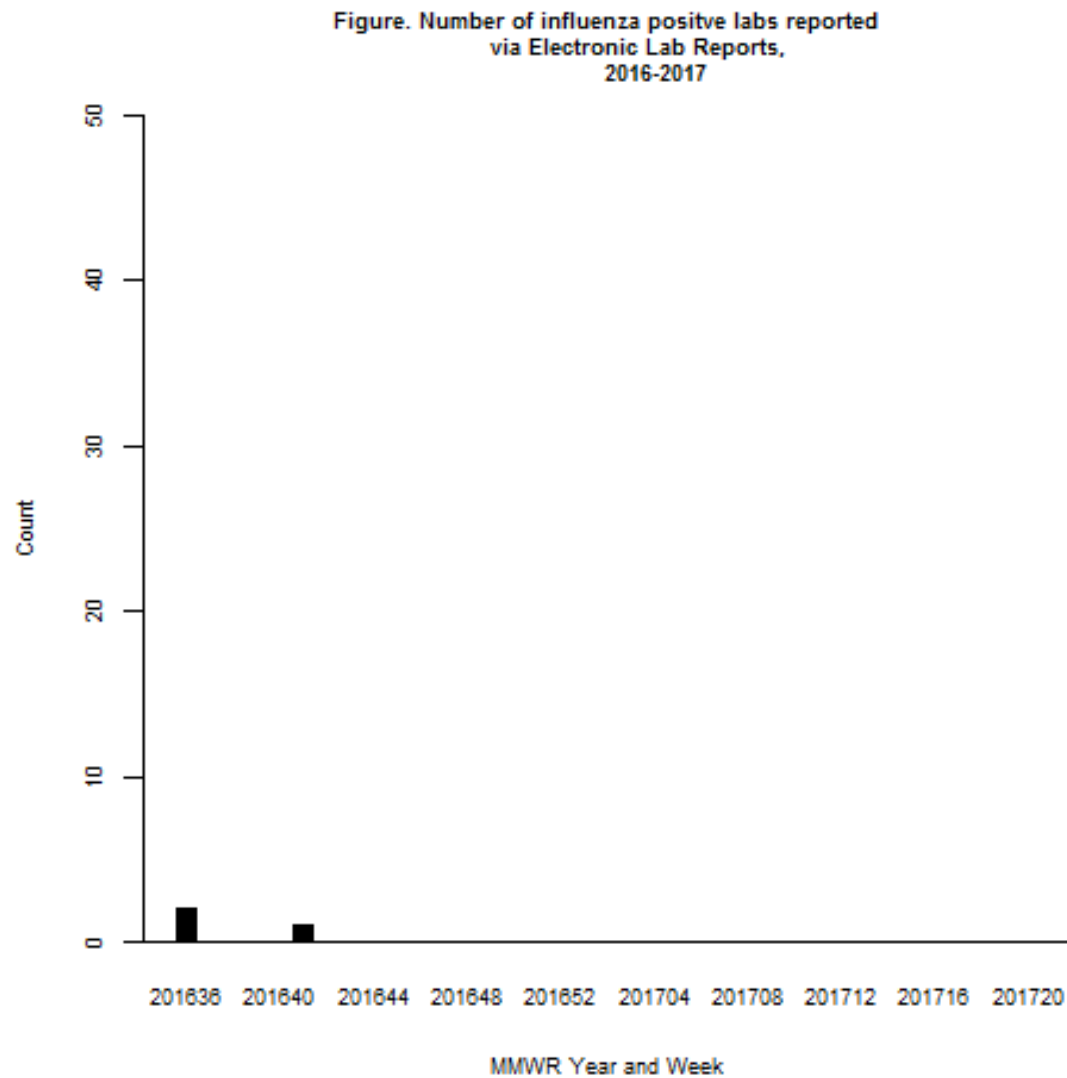
Figure. Number of influenza positive labs reported  
via non-Electronic Lab Reports,  
2016-2017





**Electronic lab reports from clinical laboratories** are transmitted to HHD.

During week 44, no influenza positive lab results were transmitted to HHD.







## Prevention and Control

Note: For the 2016-2017 season, CDC recommends use of the flu shot (inactivated influenza vaccine or IIV) and the recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV). The nasal spray flu vaccine (live attenuated influenza vaccine or LAIV) should not be used during 2016-2017. The 2016-2017 influenza vaccination recommendations are now available.

Additional information regarding Houston, Texas and national ILI activity can be accessed at:

<http://www.houstontx.gov/health/>

<http://http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/2015/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

<http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>





## Components

### Influenza Like Illness

Influenza Like Illness activity is monitored with three types of data sources. The data sources for ILI consist of hospital emergency center visits, outpatient visits, and Flu Near You.

**Hospital Emergency Center (EC)** visits which include symptoms for ILI are obtained from hospital participating in syndromic surveillance on a real-time basis. The Houston/Harris County ILI activity is tracked and monitored based on chief complaint data. The number of healthcare providers reporting ILI information to Houston Health Department ranges from 30 to 40. These data do not represent laboratory confirmed cases of influenza nor do they represent all EC visits in Houston/Harris County.

**Outpatient** visits due to ILI are obtained from Athena and ILInet on a weekly basis. The last page describes how healthcare providers can participate in ILInet.

**Crowd sourced** reported are obtained from the Flu Near You platform on a weekly basis. Visit [Flunearyou.org](http://Flunearyou.org) to get information on what is participatory surveillance and how you can participate. You must be 13 years of age or older to register. See the last page for more information.



## Contact information

### Houston Health Department

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*The Houston Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report* is available on the Houston Health Department web site [here](#).



## Announcements

**Healthcare providers** can become ILINet Providers. An ILINet provider conducts surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) in collaboration with the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Data reported by ILINet providers are combined with other surveillance data to provide a national picture of influenza virus and ILI activity in the U.S.

ILINet providers receive feedback on the data submitted, summaries of regional and national influenza data, and preliminary information via email and letters.

For more information about the ILINet Program visit

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/ILINet/>

**Flu Near You** is a participatory surveillance (crowd sourcing) tool which complements traditional disease surveillance activities. Registered users can obtain real-time information on flu activity and influenza vaccines in the Greater Houston Metropolitan Area. Flu Near You features include:

- Report symptoms
- Find vaccines
- Map flu cases in the Greater Houston Metropolitan area
- Get flu news
- Share on social media

This season HHD invites you to register for Flu Near You at <https://flunearyou.org>

